



Voucher News

A Newsletter for San Diego County Housing Authority Rental Assistance Program Participants

Fall/Winter 2007

Accessible Apartments

The National Accessible Apartment Clearinghouse (NAAC) has a listing of over 70,000 accessible apartments nationwide. The NAAC be reached via e-mail at clearinghouse@naahq.org or by visiting the web page, at www.forrent.com.

A local listing of units available to the Section 8 Program can be found on our website at www.sdhcd.org in the Renter Resources page.

Violence Against Women Act 2005 (VAWA)

VAWA affords rights to victims of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking who are applicants or participants of the Section 8 Rental Assistance Program.

VAWA places restrictions on evictions from Section 8-assisted housing, and denial or termination of Section 8 benefits for violations of the lease or family obligations due to a household member being a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking.

For more information, contact the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) at 202-307-6026 or visit the DOJ website at www.usdoj.gov/ovw.

Free or low cost health insurance for children!

Your child may be eligible for this low-cost health insurance. For more information, contact the County's San Diego Kids Health Assurance Network (SD-KHAN). For information, call 800- 675-2229 or visit the website at www.sdkhan.org.

Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Fair Housing Act), as amended, prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of dwellings, and in other housing-related transactions, based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status. If you feel you have been discriminated against, contact the HUD Hot Line at (800) 669-9777.



Things to Know

- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) System is now used to verify and confirm income information directly from a central data source. This system is used to confirm that income is reported and action is taken if income is unreported or underreported.
- A housing quality standards inspector will be conducting your inspection. The inspector cannot answer questions about your case. Please make sure your unit is ready for the inspection and you are home at the designated time.
- Additions to the household are restricted. Do not let anyone move in until you get permission from the Housing Authority and your landlord. Most additions are limited to two people per year. Adults added to the household must have a steady income history.
- A new Student Rule means school financial aid may be counted as income.
- Assistance cannot be transferred more than once every twelve months.
- Families may be required to repay all housing assistance payments made during the time they violated program requirements.

Questions? Contact your housing representative or check our website at: www.sdhcd.org.

Fraud Roundup

The Housing Authority's Program Review (PR) unit works full time investigating Section 8 fraud and program violations. The PR unit collaborates with the District Attorney to prosecute Section 8 fraud cases.

A recent investigation for an unauthorized person resulted in the discovery of a small crop of marijuana plants. The Section 8 Rental Assistance Program is a federal program that does not recognize the use of marijuana for medical purposes. The family decided to withdraw from the program.

Violators of the Section 8 program are usually required to repay assistance received during the time they violated program obligations. A family with unreported income was recently determined to owe over \$80,000 and a family with unauthorized occupants was recently determined to owe almost \$60,000. To report suspected Section 8 fraud, please call 858-694-4832 or submit a Community Complaint on our website at www.sdhcd.org.



**Read the Important Information
on the Reverse Side**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

We need you to serve on our Boards! The Section 8 Rental Assistance and Public Housing Programs are required to have a resident advisory board comprised of program participants. Two participants must also serve two-year terms on the Board of Commissioners. The Commissioners are **paid** for each meeting they attend and serve along with the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. To be a Commissioner, you must first serve on the resident advisory board.



If you are interested in serving on the resident advisory board, have transportation, and are able to attend at least two meetings a year, please complete the information below and return in your recert packet. We hope you are willing to serve.

If you have any questions, please contact your housing representative. You will be contacted regarding this application during the next 12 months.

Print Name _____

Home Address _____

City/Zip _____

Phone: _____ Housing Representative: _____

What are your principal areas of interest in serving our community?

What employment or other experience or special knowledge do you have?

Signature _____

Date _____

Return this in your packet to your Housing Representative.

Note to Housing Representative – please forward to Lorene Kellogg

***Read the Important Information
on the Reverse Side***